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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
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BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

June 1991

The Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

GED GRADUATES SHOW HIGH LITERACY SKILLS

Individuals with a General Educational Development (GED) Diploma are likely to have literacy skills higher than those of high school graduates, says a report released by the American Council on Education (ACE).

The study, "GED Candidates in the Workforce: Employed and Employable," is the third in a series based on national surveys conducted in 1980 and 1989. The current report describes the job skills, choices, income, and employment and educational goals of GED candidates.

The report's authors found that average scores for GED graduates on the Tests of Social Studies, Interpreting Literature and the Arts, and Science were higher than those for graduating high school seniors. The scores for all GED candidates, including those who did not pass, were equal to the scores for seniors, says the report.

The report also shows that in 1989, four in five GED candidates were either employed or looking for a job; half were employed for pay, while an additional 30 percent were looking for work. "Compared to other high school non-completers in the U.S. population, GED candidates are twice as likely to participate in the workforce," states the study.

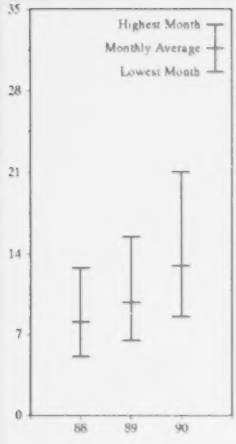
Enrolling in a postsecondary program was an important plan for candidates regardless of their employment status, the study found. Three in 10 planned to attend a community college during the following year, one in four hoped to enroll in a technical, trade, or vocational school, and one in 10 intended to enroll in a four-year institution. The report recommended that employers, educators, and job counselors capitalize on the educational motivations of candidates by providing them access to additional training and educational programs.

"Employers, educators, and job counselors [should] capitalize on the educational motivations of [GED] candidates."

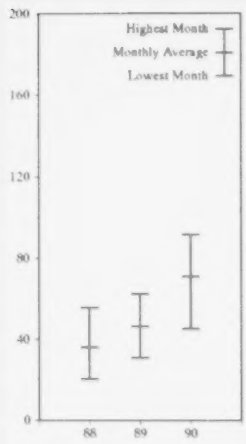
Four additional reports in the "GED Profiles: Adults in Transition" series will be published over the next several months. Subscriptions are available for $65. To order, contact the GED Testing Service, American Council on Education, Publications Dept. PAT, One Dupont Circle, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 939-9385.

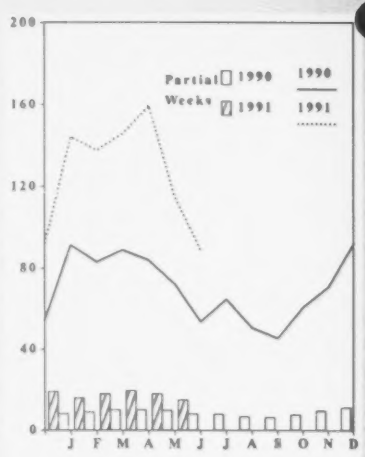
Excerpted from "GED Graduates Show High Literacy Skills, Survey Finds," News, American Council on Education, July 8, 1991.

UI Initial Claims
in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed
in Thousands





Private Industry Employer Costs Per Hour Worked For Employee Compensation by Broad Industry Category United States, March 1991

Compensation Component	All Workers In Private Industry		Goods-Producing Industries 1/		Service-Producing Industries 2/	
	Cost	Percent	Cost	Percent	Cost	Percent
Total Compensation	$15.40	100.0%	$18.48	100.0%	$14.31	100.0%
Wage Rate	11.14	72.3	12.70	68.7	10.58	74.0
Total Benefits	4.27	27.7	5.78	31.3	3.72	26.0
Paid Leave	1.05	6.8	1.27	6.9	.97	6.8
Vacations	.52	3.4	.66	3.6	.47	3.3
Holidays	.35	2.3	.46	2.5	.32	2.2
Sick Leave	.13	.8	.11	.6	.14	1.0
Other Leave	.05	.3	.05	.3	.05	.3
Supplemental Pay	.36	2.3	.63	3.4	.26	1.8
Premium Pay	.17	1.1	.35	1.9	.11	.8
Shift Pay	.05	.3	.08	.4	.04	.3
Nonproduction Bonuses	.13	.9	.20	1.1	.11	.8
Insurance	1.01	6.5	1.41	7.6	.86	6.0
Retirement and Savings	.44	2.9	.66	3.6	.36	2.5
Pensions	.35	2.2	.50	2.7	.29	2.0
Savings and Thrift	.10	.6	.15	.8	.07	.5
Legally Required	1.40	9.1	1.78	9.7	1.26	8.8
Social Security	.92	6.0	1.09	5.9	.86	6.0
Federal Unemployment	.03	.2	.03	.2	.03	.2
State Unemployment	.09	.6	.12	.6	.08	.6
Workers' Compensation	.33	2.1	.54	2.9	.25	1.8
Other Benefits	*	*	.03	.2	*	*

1/ Includes mining, construction, and manufacturing.
2/ Includes transportation, communication, and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and service industries.
* Cost per hour worked is $0.01 or less.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

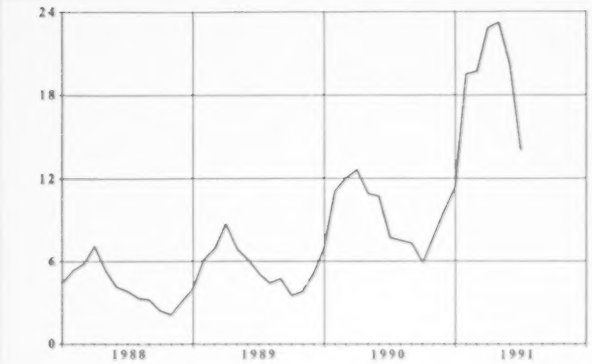
Selected Employment Security Activities

MAINE JOB SERVICE

Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments

In Millions

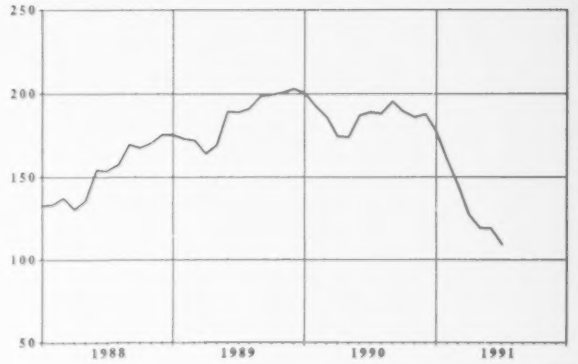
(Total includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance

In Millions

(End of Month)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS 1988	1989	1990
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$438.37	$436.55	$419.29	39.6	39.4	40.2	$11.07	$11.08	$10.43	$9.31	$9.89	$10.58
Durable Goods	422.24	422.65	403.81	40.6	40.1	40.3	10.40	10.54	10.02	9.00	9.59	10.20
Lumber and Wood Products	370.94	362.20	372.04	42.2	41.3	41.2	8.79	8.77	9.03	8.60	8.85	9.10
Primary and Fabricated Metals	432.90	417.54	422.38	42.4	41.3	43.1	10.21	10.11	9.80	8.79	9.31	9.98
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	542.59	522.52	498.74	43.2	42.9	42.7	12.56	12.18	11.68	9.49	11.03	11.63
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	378.07	378.48	349.92	38.5	38.0	36.0	9.82	9.96	9.72	8.51	9.02	9.69
Transportation Equipment	470.69	489.53	449.96	38.9	39.1	40.5	12.10	12.52	11.11	9.82	10.80	11.68
Other Durable Goods	359.10	350.24	334.15	42.0	41.4	40.8	8.55	8.46	8.19	7.43	7.80	8.11
Nondurable Goods	450.47	447.36	431.88	38.7	38.8	40.1	11.64	11.53	10.77	9.60	10.16	10.93
Food and Kindred Products	303.51	335.96	314.88	32.6	37.0	35.3	9.31	9.08	8.92	7.30	8.01	8.56
Textile Mill Products	350.06	341.25	350.95	39.6	38.3	40.2	8.84	8.91	8.73	7.66	8.22	8.82
Apparel and Other Textile Products	241.82	253.51	289.91	32.9	33.4	38.5	7.35	7.59	7.53	6.43	7.04	7.38
Paper and Allied Products	683.39	662.69	659.74	41.9	41.6	44.1	16.31	15.93	14.96	13.93	14.51	15.16
Leather and Leather Products	291.82	289.38	273.00	37.8	37.1	37.5	7.72	7.80	7.28	6.59	6.92	7.44
Other Nondurable Goods	379.26	374.45	382.71	38.7	37.9	39.7	9.80	9.88	9.64	8.62	9.10	9.62
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	386.40	384.28	411.18	36.8	37.2	38.5	10.50	10.33	10.68	9.58	10.53	10.63
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	366.13	355.85	360.90	39.2	38.1	40.1	9.34	9.34	9.00	8.08	8.50	9.26

Female Labor Force in Maine

In Thousands

ITEM 1/	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Labor Force	310.1	297.9	300.9
Unemployment	18.2	16.6	13.4
(Percent)	5.9%	5.6%	4.4%
Resident Employed	291.8	281.3	287.5

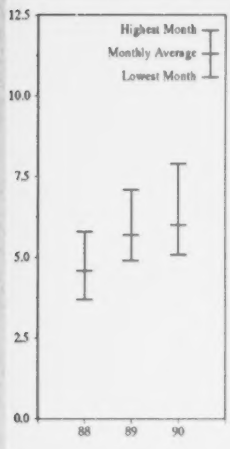
U.S. Consumer Price Index

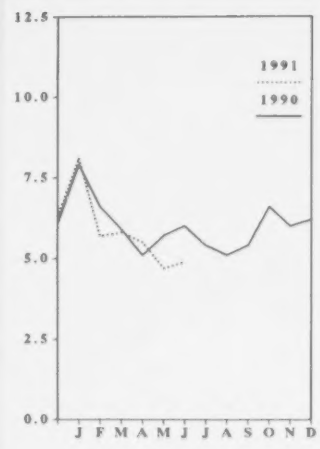
BASE PERIOD (1982-1984 = 100) All Items (CPI-U)	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
	136.0	135.6	129.9	133.8

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.3%
Percent Change from Last December	+1.6%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+4.7%

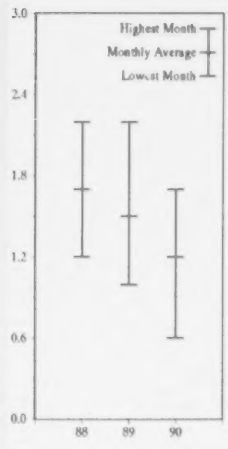
1/ Current figures preliminary; last month and year ago figures revised.
Source: Female labor force estimates are developed by, and solely the responsibility of, the Maine Bureau of Employment Security.

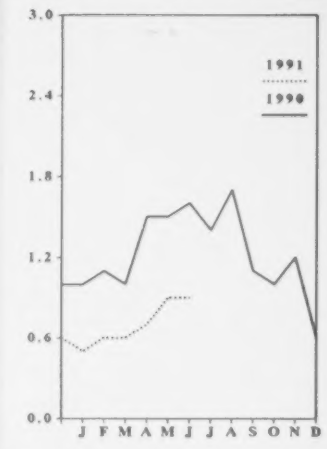
New Applications For Work
in Thousands





Nonfarm Placements
in Thousands
(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)





Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work (in Thousands)

ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	524..6	515.8	554.6	125.7	124.2	133.0	38.2	38.5	40.0
Goods Producing	121.8	119.2	135.7	21.5	21.1	24.2	10.1	10.1	11.1
Construction and Mining	25.8	24.3	31.7	5.6	5.4	7.0	1.8	1.7	2.0
Building Construction	7.9	7.4	10.1	1.1	1.1	1.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Special Trade Contractors	13.4	12.9	16.3	4.0	3.9	5.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manufacturing	96.0	94.9	104.0	15.9	15.7	17.2	8.3	8.4	9.1
Durable Goods	43.3	42.8	47.9	7.1	7.0	8.2	2.3	2.3	2.4
Lumber and Wood Products	9.8	9.4	10.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.1	3.1	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	4.5	4.4	4.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	7.6	7.5	8.3	2.6	2.6	2.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transportation Equipment	13.9	14.1	15.6	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Durable Goods 2/	4.4	4.3	4.9	2.9	2.8	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nondurable Goods	52.7	52.1	56.1	8.8	8.7	9.0	6.0	6.1	6.7
Food and Kindred Products	6.5	6.2	7.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Textile Mill Products	5.6	5.5	5.8	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apparel and Other Textile Products	2.7	2.6	3.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products	18.0	17.8	17.9	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Printing and Publishing	5.4	5.5	5.9	1.5	1.5	1.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastic Products	3.4	3.4	3.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.1	1.1	1.7
Leather and Leather Products	9.7	9.7	11.1	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.8
Footwear (except Rubber)	8.1	8.1	9.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Nondurable Goods 3/	1.4	1.4	1.5	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.0	3.1	3.2
Service Producing	402.8	396.6	418.9	104.2	103.1	108.8	28.1	28.4	28.9
Transportation and Public Utilities	22.0	21.4	22.5	7.1	7.1	6.4	1.3	1.3	1.4
Wholesale Trade	24.4	23.9	25.7	9.0	8.9	9.6	2.2	2.1	2.3
Retail Trade	107.1	103.1	115.0	27.6	27.3	29.9	7.8	7.8	8.0
Food Stores	19.2	19.0	20.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eating and Drinking Places	37.0	33.6	38.8	8.8	8.7	9.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	25.4	25.1	25.4	12.4	12.4	12.2	2.2	2.2	2.3
Banking	10.2	10.0	10.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents	10.9	10.8	10.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Services	131.5	128.0	132.8	33.0	31.5	34.9	10.3	10.7	10.5
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	10.9	8.7	11.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business Services	15.6	15.1	14.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Health Services	45.5	45.3	45.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Government	17.8	17.9	20.0	1.9	1.9	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local Government 4/	74.6	77.2	77.5	13.2	14.0	13.5	4.0	4.0	4.1
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full- and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 24, 25, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39. 3/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 20, 22, 23, 26, 30; Lewiston - 20, 22, 23, 26, 27. 4/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. * Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item. Source: Nonfarm wage and salary employment by place of work and earnings, and workweek of production workers in manufacturing industries are developed by the Maine Bureau of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/ This Month	LABOR FORCE 2/ Last Month	LABOR FORCE 2/ Year Ago	RESIDENT EMPLOYED This Month	RESIDENT EMPLOYED Last Month	RESIDENT EMPLOYED Year Ago	UNEMPLOYMENT Number This Month	UNEMPLOYMENT Number Last Month	UNEMPLOYMENT Number Year Ago	UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force This Month	UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force Last Month	UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force Year Ago
MAINE-STATEWIDE (000).....	656.6	638.8	652.9	606.6	585.6	624.2	50.0	53.2	28.7	7.6	8.3	4.4
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA.....	47,000	46,900	46,100	44,200	43,900	44,500	2,900	3,100	1,600	6.1	6.5	3.4
Lewiston-Auburn MSA.....	43,700	43,400	43,100	38,900	38,700	40,400	4,800	4,800	2,700	10.9	10.9	6.2
Portland MSA.....	134,300	131,200	136,700	126,200	123,100	132,400	8,100	8,100	4,300	6.0	6.2	3.2
Portsmouth-Dover Rochester MSA.....	n/a	144,700	143,400	n/a	137,400	137,700	n/a	7,300	5,800	n/a	5.1	4.0
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta.....	38,860	37,490	37,930	36,400	34,970	36,660	2,460	2,520	1,270	6.3	6.7	3.3
Bath-Brunswick.....	31,530	30,750	32,630	29,660	28,840	31,690	1,860	1,920	940	5.9	6.2	2.9
Belfast.....	13,350	12,960	13,060	11,880	11,420	12,070	1,470	1,540	980	11.0	11.9	7.5
Biddeford.....	29,070	28,820	31,370	26,550	25,930	29,970	2,530	2,890	1,400	8.7	10.0	4.5
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset.....	18,970	17,010	18,600	18,250	16,260	18,200	720	750	400	3.8	4.4	2.1
Calais-Eastport.....	15,760	15,330	15,440	14,130	13,380	14,320	1,630	1,950	1,130	10.3	12.7	7.3
Caribou-Presque Isle.....	23,720	23,260	22,310	21,460	20,720	20,950	2,250	2,540	1,360	9.5	10.9	6.1
Central Penobscot.....	3,510	3,240	3,260	3,190	2,930	3,070	330	310	190	9.3	9.6	6.0
Dover-Foxcroft.....	7,510	7,420	7,370	6,840	6,650	6,960	670	770	410	8.9	10.4	5.5
Ellsworth.....	29,140	26,660	28,870	27,580	24,790	27,880	1,570	1,870	1,000	5.4	7.0	3.4
Farmington.....	13,520	13,500	13,420	12,200	12,070	12,650	1,320	1,420	770	9.7	10.5	5.8
Fort Kent-Allagash.....	5,530	5,440	5,400	4,890	4,670	4,950	640	770	450	11.5	14.2	8.3
Greenville.....	1,450	1,300	1,440	1,340	1,160	1,350	110	150	90	7.7	11.3	6.0
Houlton.....	7,030	6,850	7,000	6,530	6,280	6,590	500	570	420	7.1	8.3	6.0
Kittery-York 3/.....	30,240	29,750	30,990	29,270	28,660	30,420	970	1,090	580	3.2	3.6	1.9
Lincoln-Howland.....	5,860	5,690	5,580	5,190	4,910	5,240	670	770	340	11.4	13.6	6.1
Livermore Falls.....	5,350	5,220	5,040	4,810	4,670	4,700	540	550	340	10.0	10.5	6.8
Madawaska-Van Buren.....	4,300	4,220	4,170	3,930	3,800	3,890	370	420	280	8.6	9.9	6.8
Millinocket-East Millinocket.....	4,600	4,500	4,460	4,140	4,000	4,220	460	510	240	9.9	11.2	5.4
Norway-Paris.....	12,370	11,980	12,370	10,900	10,450	11,450	1,480	1,530	920	11.9	12.8	7.4
Patten-Island Falls.....	2,580	2,640	2,440	2,320	2,190	2,280	260	450	160	10.1	16.9	6.4
Rockland.....	20,970	19,940	20,810	19,580	18,340	19,810	1,390	1,600	1,000	6.6	8.0	4.8
Rumford.....	9,210	9,000	9,180	8,210	7,950	8,500	1,000	1,060	670	10.9	11.8	7.3
Sanford.....	17,500	17,020	17,390	15,770	15,240	16,380	1,730	1,780	1,020	9.9	10.5	5.8
Sebago Lakes Region.....	14,370	13,480	14,100	13,250	12,310	13,450	1,120	1,170	640	7.8	8.7	4.6
Skowhegan.....	25,380	24,840	24,830	22,670	22,010	23,390	2,710	2,830	1,440	10.7	11.4	5.8
Southwest Penobscot.....	12,140	11,810	11,300	10,740	10,290	10,510	1,400	1,520	790	11.5	12.8	7.0
Waterville.....	27,820	27,090	26,270	25,700	25,040	25,390	2,120	2,050	880	7.6	7.6	3.4
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)												
Connecticut----------	n/a	1,776.9	1,832.6	n/a	1,684.7	1,738.0	n/a	92.2	94.6	n/a	5.2	5.2
Massachusetts----------	3,167.0	3,124.0	3,232.9	2,867.0	2,836.0	3,043.9	300.0	288.0	189.0	9.5	9.2	5.8
New Hampshire----------	n/a	640.7	637.1	n/a	594.9	598.3	n/a	45.8	38.8	n/a	7.1	6.1
Rhode Island----------	510.6	513.8	520.7	471.4	472.3	486.1	39.2	41.5	34.6	7.7	8.1	6.6
Vermont----------	309.2	300.2	312.1	287.7	279.3	298.3	21.5	20.9	13.8	6.9	7.0	4.4
NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)----	n/a	6,994.4	7,188.3	n/a	6,452.8	6,788.8	n/a	541.6	399.5	n/a	7.7	5.6
UNITED STATES (000)----------	127,054	124,857	126,307	118,280	116,624	119,605	8,774	8,233	6,702	6.9	6.6	5.3

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas are by place of residence and are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces. Data are rounded for publishing purposes. Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding. MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area. n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.

2/ Current figures preliminary; last month and year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: These data are developed by the Maine Bureau of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment

ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Number of continued-week claimants*	18,074	22,551	11,551	3,240	3,819	1,910	1,785	2,074	1,218

Continued-week claimants are less partials for week including the 12th of the month.

Labor Market Digest
Wins National Award

Labor Market Digest was recently recognized as the best Labor Market Information monthly in the United States for 1990-1991.

"I am pleased that the quality of products provided by the Division of Economic Analysis and Research is recognized at the national level," said Department of Labor Commisisoner Charles A. Morrison. "The *Labor Market Digest* is one of the many excellent products that the Division offers users of labor market information in Maine."

Maine's monthly publication vied with other state's publications in the annual competition sponsored by the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies (ICESA) based in Washington, D.C. The awards were announced at the ICESA conference in Seattle, Washington on June 13. The publications were judged on quality of content, including analysis; comprehensive coverage of subject; organization; writing style; spelling and punctuation; and packaging.

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LABOR MARKET DIGEST

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Multiple Jobholding Up Sharply in the 1980's

Labor Market Digest, which is published each month by the Research Division, provides statistics on state and major labor market unemployment, employment, hours worked, and earnings for the current month and comparative time periods. Also featured are graphic presentations of selected Employment Service activities and articles concerning various aspects of the Maine labor market.

The Maine Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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